

SENATE BILL

No. 1

Introduced by Senator Burton

November 19, 2003

An act relating to workers' compensation, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1, as introduced, Burton. Workers' compensation.

Existing law establishes a workers' compensation system to compensate an employee for injuries incurred arising out of, or in the course of, employment.

Chapters 635 and 639 of the Statutes of 2003, which will become operative on January 1, 2004, among other things, revise the payment procedures and amounts paid to medical providers for various goods and services provided to an injured worker, and revise the extent and scope of medical treatment to be provided and the requirements for compensability of this treatment. These provisions increase the maximum fine that could be imposed for fraudulent statements made in connection with a workers' compensation claim, eliminate vocational rehabilitation provisions, and require that a supplemental job displacement benefit be paid to an injured worker if the injury causes permanent partial disability and other conditions exist. The provisions also authorize procedures for the payment of workers' compensation claims due to insolvent insurers and impose requirements on the Insurance Commissioner, insurers, and rating organizations relating to certain cost savings and premium rates charged for workers' compensation policies.

This bill would prohibit the provisions of Chapters 635 and 639 of the Statutes of 2003 from becoming operative.

This bill would declare that it would take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The provisions of Chapters 635 and 639 of the
2 Statutes of 2003 shall not become operative.

3 SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
4 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety
5 within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go
6 into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

7 In order to prevent the changes made to existing law by Chapters
8 635 and 639 of the Statutes of 2003 from becoming operative, it
9 is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

